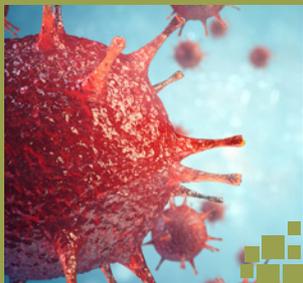




### FREE TO TAKE HOME!

### SEE BACK PAGE FOR CORONAVIRUS IMPORTANT NOTICE



Corona



Diabetes



Angina



Lupus (SLE)

#### YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT:

#### ENJOY THIS FREE NEWSLETTER

Please remember that decisions about medical care should be made in consultation with your health care provider so discuss with your doctor before acting on any of the information.  
[www.healthnews.net.au](http://www.healthnews.net.au)

#### ● AFTER HOURS & EMERGENCY

In case of a medical emergency call '000' and ask for an ambulance immediately.

For all other After hours medical enquiries, after Stawell Medical Centre has closed, on weekends or public holidays, please call **5358 1410** and your call will put through to our after hours service for advice.

#### ● PRACTICE DOCTORS

- Dr Andrew Cunningham** MBBS
- Dr Eleazer Okwor-Ojwang** MBBS, FRACGP
- Dr Venkateshwar Komerelly** MBBS, FRACGP
- Dr Swetha Bandaru** MBBS, FRACGP
- Dr Adnan Rasheed** MBBS, FRACGP
- Dr Catherine Pye** MBBS, FACRRM
- Dr Christian Ezeobi** MBBS

**Dr Marcus Wilcox** MBBS

**Dr Miguel Dajao** MBBS

**Dr Kannan Ramanathan** MBBS

**Dr Michael Forster** BM,BS, FACRRM, DRANZCOG,  
M GP Psych, Dip Prac Derm(Cardiff), Dip Adv Hypn

#### ● VISITING SURGEONS

**Mr Ahmed Naqeeb** FRACS, FRCS, MBChB  
*Practice doctors are experienced in the broad range of general practice problems and the treatment of all age groups.*

#### ● PRIVATE PSYCHOLOGIST

**Krystal Browne**

#### ● PRACTICE STAFF

**Practice Manager:**

Kim Hinkley

**Administration Staff:**

Kerryn, Jess, Tina, Rebecca, Melissa, Deb & Leah

**Nursing Staff:**

Pam, Vicki, Jan, Belinda & Crystal

#### ● SURGERY HOURS

**Monday – Friday**

8.30am – 5.30pm

**Saturday, Sunday &**

**Public Holidays**

(By appointment by the doctor at *Urgent Care Centre*, Stawell Regional Health - Urgent patients only)

**All attendances at Stawell Regional Health Urgent Care Centre WILL incur an out of pocket fee of \$50.00**

#### ● BILLING ARRANGEMENTS

All patients are required to pay in full at the time of appointment. Medicare refunds can be processed immediately via TYRO terminal and deposited directly back into your account. Payment can be made by cash, credit card or EFTPOS. If you would like to know more please ask to speak to our accounts team.

**Fees as of 1st July 2019:**

**Standard consult**

Private ..... \$75.00

Health Care Card Holder ..... \$64.00

Pension Card Holder ..... \$57.50

All patients under 16 and over 75 years of age

will be bulk billed for appointments at Stawell

Medical Centre Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm only.

After Hours fees apply to EVERYONE seen by a Doctor at Stawell Regional Health Urgent Care Centre:

**Standard consult - Regular Hours**

Saturday ..... \$87.05

Sunday ..... \$99.00

All attendances at Stawell Regional Health Urgent Care Centre WILL incur an out of pocket fee of \$50.00

#### ● APPOINTMENTS

Consultation is by appointment. We have appointments available for urgent cases on the day.

Please let reception staff know if you would like a longer appointment, for a medical report, TAC or Workcover form or if you have several things you wish to discuss.

**Home Visits.** These are available on request. Please speak to reception if you would like further information.

If **more than one person** from your family would like to see the doctor, please ensure that a separate appointment is made for each person otherwise they may not be seen.

**Time is valuable to all of us.** If you are **unable to attend a booked appointment**, please let the practice know at least 2 hours prior.

If you **fail to attend** a booked appointment without warning or explanation you may be charged a non-attendance fee. We may not be able to offer you booked appointments in the future either.

#### ● SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

*Stawell Medical Centres Values and Mission align with those of Stawell Regional Health;*

**Stawell Regional Health Mission**

*In partnership with our community, Stawell Regional Health will deliver high quality care and improve health outcomes by providing safe, accessible and integrated services.*

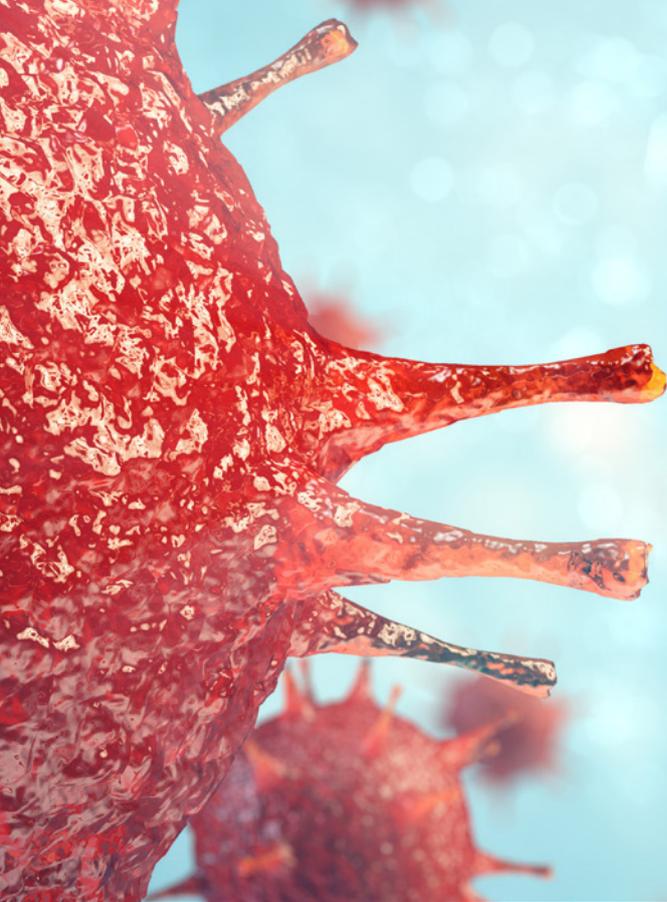
**Stawell Regional Health Vision**

*Caring for our community.*

**Despite our best intentions**, we sometimes run late! This is because someone has needed unexpected or urgent medical attention. Be assured that when it comes to your appointment, your doctor will give your consult the time that it deserves. We thank you for your understanding and consideration.

▶ Please see the Rear Cover for more practice information.





# Corona

We share this planet with a host of other living things including viruses. Some are well known to us and do not cause much concern.

Surprisingly, the Corona family of viruses as a group fit into this category. They cause a cold type illness which whilst not pleasant is not serious either. The new Corona Virus (covid-19) has generated a lot of publicity and it is correct to say that we are still learning about it. However, it remains a member of a family of viruses which typically have not caused major problems to most who contract them.

It is not 100% possible to avoid viruses but there are a number of sensible precautions we can take. Basic hygiene makes a big difference. Always cough or sneeze into a tissue or hanky or at least your elbow. Regular hand washing makes a big difference. Try to avoid touching your nose eyes and mouth. If you have symptoms of a virus stay home from work

and if your child is affected keep them home from school.

Basics like eating a sensible diet, doing regular exercise, getting adequate sleep and managing your stress all help support your immune system. Whilst not a guarantee that you cannot get sick, it can make it less likely.

It is almost certain that this virus will spread worldwide. There is nothing, at this stage, to suggest that it is any more dangerous than a host of other viruses that we are more familiar with. Make sure you keep up to date with advisories from health authorities but there is no need for panic.

As always, if you are in any doubt or feeling unwell please see your local GP.

**Coronavirus Health Information Line 1800 020 080**



## Teenage Acne

Under hormonal influence (mainly testosterone) sebaceous glands in the skin produce excess oil. This can block the pores allowing bacteria to multiply leading to acne. Most common in teenage years, it also affects adults. Males are more prone as are those with naturally oily skin and there are genetic tendencies.

The face, chest, back and neck are the most affected areas. Acne can be made worse by stress, oily cosmetics and some medications. For women it may be worse with periods. Although it is an infection, it is not contagious.

There are lots of myths about food causing acne – but none have been shown to make a difference. Eating sensibly and drinking plenty of water will help but not cure acne.

Basic treatments include keeping the skin clean and using good quality skin cleansers. Next steps are more specific anti acne creams or gels applied on the affected areas. Most of these are available

without prescription.

If this is not helping your doctor can prescribe antibiotics. The length of the course varies according to response. For some females there is a hormonal treatment which doubles as a contraceptive.

In the most severe cases you may be referred to a dermatologist. Severe cystic acne can be treated with more potent medications, but these need to be carefully monitored, as side effects can be a problem.

Fortunately for most acne resolves by late teens or early twenties. Scarring can occur but infrequently and can be treated increasingly successfully.

## Diabetes

There are two types of Diabetes and they broadly divide into insulin requiring (type 1) and non-insulin requiring (type 2). This is not absolute as some people who do not need insulin at the start may go on to do so.

Type one occurs where the body cannot produce insulin and often starts in childhood or adolescence. There are genetic tendencies although the exact inheritance pattern is not known. Type two comes about when the body's cells become resistant to the effects of insulin and this generally occurs later in life.

Weight and consumption of refined carbohydrates play a bigger role although there are genetic tendencies here too.

Diabetes is diagnosed by testing for glucose in the blood stream. If glucose is elevated a further test known as a glucose tolerance test will be done. This involves "challenging" the body with a sugar load and monitoring how the body handles it.

Management of diabetes includes lifestyle changes and possibly medications. Those with type one will need lifelong insulin. Being on a low sugar diet is vital for diabetics. For those who are overweight, losing weight can help control glucose levels. Regular exercise is good for blood sugar too.

Blood glucose monitoring helps people with diabetes control their blood sugar and live in relative freedom. Formal blood tests through your doctor are also important.

Complications of diabetes can be largely avoided by good blood sugar control and this is not as hard as you might think.



# Angina

Angina pectoris is a condition where people experience pain in the chest most commonly in relation to exertion. It is a form of Ischaemic Heart Disease (IHD) but not the same as a heart attack. In the latter there is total blockage of an artery of the heart whereas in angina there is narrowing of the artery without total blockage.

The pain comes about from the heart muscle not having enough oxygen. When you exert yourself, the heart needs more oxygen than at rest. If the "pipes" carrying blood to the heart are narrowed, then the extra blood cannot get through and you experience pain. Generally, this is felt in the centre of the chest but can be felt in the neck jaw or left arm. Rest typically relieves angina pain.

Whilst not all chest pain is angina it is vitally important that your doctor assess chest pain. Most people with angina will need tests done on the heart and will require medications including the type that you pop or spray under the tongue when the pain occurs.



Lifestyle measures for those with and wanting to avoid angina is to not smoke, to maintain a healthy body weight, reduce fats in the diet and perhaps follow a Mediterranean type diet high in fruits and vegetables, low in red meat and with a splash of olive oil and red wine (note just a splash).

Regular exercise is important as it improves the circulation and you will be surprised at how you progress over time. Start gently and take professional advice.

## Checking for Head Lice - signs & symptoms

Most parents have experienced the note or email from the School saying head lice have been found. But should we be really concerned?

Common in school age children but potentially affecting anyone, lice are annoying but not serious. The head louse is a tiny wingless insect. It can only live on humans (lice die within 24 hours if not on the body) and feeds on miniscule amounts of blood drawn from the scalp.

As it cannot jump or fly but only crawl, it is spread by direct hair to hair contact. The typical symptom is an itchy scalp.

Adult lice are gray or tan insects the size of a sesame seed on the scalp whilst Nits (lice eggs) are tiny white or brown dots usually attached to hair near the scalp. They have a dandruff-like appearance however they can't be "shaken" off.

To find them comb hair with any conditioner and then use a fine toothcomb. Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel. Look for eggs or lice. Do this through all the hair a few times.

Treatment is removing lice and nits from the hair. You can use the conditioner method (described above) every other day till none have been found for ten days. There are also specific head lice treatments (both synthetic and organic) that can be used. Follow the directions on the pack. Wash pillowcases in hot water. Family members need only be treated if lice or nits are found on them.



## Lupus (SLE)

This is an autoimmune condition of unknown cause that can affect many organ systems with Genetics playing a key role. It is nine times more common in women than men and peak age of onset is between 20 and 40.

The most common symptoms are joint aches and pains and a red skin rash, which is worsened by sun exposure. Fever, fatigue, hair loss, mouth ulcers, and dry eyes may occur.

Symptoms can be few or many and very mild through to severe. Internal organs (kidneys, lungs) may be affected. It is notoriously difficult to diagnose with no specific tests as all autoantibodies found in people with Lupus may be found in people without any medical issue.

Diagnosis is based on a combination of examination findings and numerous tests. It generally takes quite a while from first onset of symptoms to establish a diagnosis and symptoms can be episodic or ongoing.

Treatment depends on the nature and severity of the symptoms. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID's) are used to treat painful joints. Steroids may be used if internal organs are involved. Topical steroid creams are used for skin eruptions.

There is no specific cure so be wary of products, which claim to do so. Instead opt for lifestyle measures including regular exercise, eating a healthy diet, not smoking and managing stress.

Lupus has no known cure. Most people will have flares from time to time, not need constant treatment and can expect to lead a long and otherwise full and active life.

# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



FEVER



COUGH



SHORTNESS OF BREATH



SORE THROAT

## What you need to know

People who have returned from a country or region that is at high or moderate risk for COVID-19 should monitor their health closely. If you develop symptoms including a fever and cough you should isolate yourself immediately and urgently seek medical attention. **Go to [www.health.gov.au/covid19-travellers](http://www.health.gov.au/covid19-travellers) for the list of at-risk countries.**

People who think they may have been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus should also monitor their health and seek urgent medical attention.

Some people who are infected may not get sick at all, some will get mild symptoms from which they will recover easily, and others may become very ill, very quickly. From previous experience with other coronaviruses, the people at most risk of serious infection are:

- people with compromised immune systems (e.g. cancer) elderly people
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people people with diagnosed chronic medical conditions

- very young children and babies\*
- people in group residential settings
- people in detention facilities.

At this stage the risk to children and babies, and the role children play in the transmission of COVID-19, is not clear. However, there has so far been a low rate of confirmed COVID-19 cases among children, relative to the broader population.

While coronavirus is of concern, it is important to remember that most people displaying symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat or tiredness are likely suffering with a cold or other respiratory illness – not coronavirus.

 Taken direct from: <https://www.health.gov.au>

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

If you feel any of the above symptoms and have recently come into contact with someone exposed to the COVID-19 virus or suspected of having the virus OR have recently returned from overseas contact the General Practice on this Newsletter urgently.

**PLEASE DO NOT PRESENT TO THE SURGERY OR PRACTICE UNLESS ADVISED TO DO SO BY THE DOCTORS OR PRACTICE STAFF.**

For the latest advice, information and resources, go to [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au).

Call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you require translating or interpreting services, call 131 450.



**Stawell Medical Centre**  
A division of Stawell Regional Health

### ● SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

**SMS reminders** are sent to all registered mobile phones. Phone reminders are also available should you require this.

#### **Electronic Communication.**

Although most problems are best dealt with in a consultation with your doctor, our staff are experienced in helping you decide whether the matter requires an appointment, return phone call or urgent advice.

You are able to **contact the practice by email** as well should you need to. We do advise that this is not the most secure method of communication.

We have a **recall system** in place for all test results and chronic disease management.

#### **Patient Health Information.**

To obtain a copy of your health record or to obtain a copy of Stawell Regional Health "Protection and use of your health information" brochure or to view the Stawell Regional Health privacy policy, please ask to see our Practice Manager or Privacy Officer.

If you prefer you can contact the Health Services Commissioner Complaints and Information on; Telephone: 1300 582 113 or email: [hsc@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:hsc@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

**Patient Feedback.** We welcome your feedback and invite you to fill out a "Compliment, Complaint and Feedback form". These are located near the entrance to the practice, in the reception area. You can also ask to speak to the Practice manager or your GP.

**Test Results.** Results are viewed by our doctors and acted upon in a timely manner, always with your health as a priority. Please make sure you have made an appointment with your doctor to review any results as they will not be given over the phone.

### ● SPECIALIST SERVICES

Stawell Regional Health has a large number of other Medical Services and Visiting Specialist's available. Our doctors have extensive knowledge of these and can advise you about whether a referral is appropriate and arrange for this to occur if needed.